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Michael D. King is Senior Research Associate in the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado. Prior to that he was Senior Project Scientist of NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS), a position he held from 1992 to 2008. He received the BA degree in physics from Colorado College in 1971 and the MS and PhD degrees in atmospheric sciences from the University of Arizona in 1973 and 1977, respectively, and joined NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in January 1978.

Dr. King's research experience includes conceiving, developing, and operating multispectral scanning radiometers from a number of aircraft platforms in field experiments ranging from arctic stratus clouds to smoke from the Kuwait oil fires and biomass burning in Brazil and southern Africa. He has lectured on global change on all seven continents. As Team Leader of the MODIS science team of the Earth Observing System, he is responsible for coordinating the development of algorithms being run routinely to process MODIS data on the Terra and Aqua satellites for a wide range of atmosphere, land, and ocean products. As a team member, he is also responsible for developing algorithms for deriving cloud optical and microphysical properties of liquid water and ice clouds.

He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), recipient of the Verner E. Suomi Award of the AMS for fundamental contributions to remote sensing and radiative transfer, and recipient of the Space Systems Award of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) for NASA's Earth Observing System.